



## Barbara Baker Page Nance

April 30, 1939 - September 22, 2024

Barbara Baker Page Nance passed away at her home in Salem, VA on September 22, 2024.

Barbara was born in Pound, VA on April 30, 1939 to William Clyde Baker and Nella Hubbard Baker. She was raised on her family's homestead (fondly referred to as "The Hill") along with her siblings Bill, Carol, Delores, and Jeanie where she was occasionally taunted as "Barbie Cat" (although the offending sibling would need catlike reflexes to escape after invoking that nickname).

Barbara was a 1957 graduate of Pound High School. After receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Radford College in 1960, she moved to the Washington D.C. suburbs where she worked as a teacher at Osborne High School in Manassas, VA and later as an Educational Specialist for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs. During her years with the federal government, she met and married Ernest Henry Page, an engineer with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and in 1965 the couple gave birth to a son (Ernest Henry Jr.).

In 1967 the couple returned to "The Hill" in Pound where they welcomed a second son (Anthony Baker). Ernie Sr. became an architect with Thompson and Litton, and Barbara began a long and storied tenure as an educator in the

Wise County Public Schools system.

Barbara's professional legacy is one of dedication to public education. For a short time, Barbara served as a Special Education Instructor at Pound Elementary School, but spent most of her thirty-year career as an influential English teacher at J.J. Kelly High School in Wise, VA. She had a passion and gift not only for classroom instruction, but also for shaping the curriculum and content standards at the county level. She devoted time to mentoring teachers by conducting numerous workshops, organizing conferences, and piloting programs for continued education. Barbara led by example, earning her master's degree in Education from Union College, Barbourville, KY. Barbara was an agent of change in English education. She was an active and driving member of the Virginia Association of Teachers of English and guided fellow teachers in Wise County in the implementation of Writing Across the Curriculum, a nationwide movement. Throughout her entire career, Barbara was an innovative educator and inspired her students to be lifelong learners like their favorite English teacher.

Barbara's love of family defined her life and after Ernie Sr.'s death in 1977, Barbara took on the role of single, working mother shepherding her boys through their years at Pound High School and into their collegiate careers at Virginia Tech through the 1980s and 1990s. Barbara was incredibly proud of her sons and they, in turn, were proud of her.

As a parent of two Hokies, Barbara became a big VT supporter and fan, but she took her fandom to the next level when she met Richard Nance, a professor of Computer Science at Virginia Tech, in 1989. The couple would marry at the chapel on campus in October 2001.

For 35 years Barbara and Dick traveled the world, enjoyed their homes in Pound and Salem, VA and Dunedin, FL, spent time with friends and family,

doted on their grandchildren, and spoiled their pets. If there was ever a life well-lived, it was Barbara's!

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, Clyde and Nella; siblings: Bill, Carol, and Delores; and first husband, Ernie. She is survived by her husband, Dick; sister, Jeanie; children: Ernie (Jayne), Tony (Kim), Rick (Kate), and Adriann (John); grandchildren: Julia (Tim), Ernie III (Christina), Sasha, Gavin, and Jules.

A service of remembrance will be held at the War Memorial Chapel, Virginia Tech campus on Saturday, October 12, 2024 from 2:00-4:00. A reception will follow at the University Club at Lane Stadium.

Donations in Barbara's name are encouraged to the American Cancer Society, Cancer Research Institute, or Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT **12**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

War Memorial Chapel  
Virginia Tech Campus  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

# Tribute Wall

PS

“ I am overcome with the deepest of sorrow at the passing of my friend and cousin . Barbara was a gift to many people and will be remembered for her kindness. Go rest high on that mountain.

Peggy Anderson Shepherd - October 12, 2024 at 04:37 PM

RF

“ Richard, Ava Lilly and family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Barbara Baker Page Nance.



Richard, Ava Lilly and family - October 10, 2024 at 02:51 PM

KO

“ Kara Olson lit a candle in memory of Barbara Baker Page Nance



Kara Olson - October 10, 2024 at 12:56 AM

DK

“ Dean & Nora Kirstein purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Barbara Baker Page Nance.



Dean & Nora Kirstein - October 02, 2024 at 02:15 PM

DK

“ Dean & Nora Kirstein planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Baker Page Nance.

Dean & Nora Kirstein - October 02, 2024 at 02:15 PM

SA

“ My sweet nana i miss you so much 😞 you have made such a big impact on my life and taught me how to be the lady i am today i love you so much

sasha - October 01, 2024 at 08:37 PM

BE

“ I was deeply saddened to learn that Barbara had passed away. She was a beautiful soul who had such an influence on the young people of Wise County. I had the pleasure of teaching her sons and daughters- in- law , who were all extraordinary students, and such a pleasure to teach. I pray that beautiful memories will lessen the pain and bring the family peace and comfort in the days ahead. My condolences and love go out to Barbara’s entire family.



Brenda Edwards - October 01, 2024 at 06:40 AM

AE

“ 1 file added to the album nana



Adriann Elebash - September 30, 2024 at 06:31 PM

BW

*Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Aunt Barbara will be deeply missed. Love you all*

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**Byron Whitaker** - September 30, 2024 at 11:57 PM

BG

*We are so very sorry for your loss. Prayers for the entire family. Glenn and Barbara*

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**Barbara Griffith** - October 01, 2024 at 11:25 AM

AE

“ *Such a beautiful and amazing woman! Proud to call you my second mama!*

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**adriann elebash** - September 30, 2024 at 06:25 PM